



THE ABBEY OF
NEW CLAIRVAUX
— VINA, CALIFORNIA —

February 28, 2018

Commissioner Robert Taub, Chairman
Commissioner Tony Hammond, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Nanci Langley
Commissioner Mark Acton
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

RECEIVED

2018 MAR -8 P 1:32

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Docket No. RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

We join the National Catholic Development Conference (NCDC), the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, and the nonprofit mailing community in urging you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation. Increases that are estimated to reach 7 percent a year, or 40 percent compounded for five years, will not reform the United States Postal Service and will have a major negative impact on both the agency and its customers.

As a nonprofit, we rely on mail for the majority of our fundraising. But we operate on a limited, fixed fundraising budget each year, so if postage goes up as much as you contemplate, we will be forced to greatly reduce our mailings. This will have a disastrous impact on our revenue and our mission.

Our mission as a monastic community of Cistercian (Trappist) monks is to witness God's love for the world according to the gospel of Jesus Christ expressed in the Rule of St. Benedict by a life of prayer, labor, sustainable stewardship of our resources in simplicity and openness to the signs of our times. We welcome all people in a spirit of hospitality and engage others in collaborative relationships.

Postage increases totaling 40 percent over the next five years will have a negative impact on our mission to the people we serve here in Northern California.

Please do the right thing and reconsider your proposal.

Sincerely,

Abbot Paul Mark Schwan, O.C.S.O.

Mission Statement:

Seeking God at this place of New Clairvaux, we are a community of Cistercian monks living the Rule of Saint Benedict. We witness God's love for the world according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ by a life of prayer, labor and sustainable stewardship of our resources in simplicity and openness to the signs of the times. Our monastery welcomes all people in a spirit of hospitality, and engages others in collaborative relationships.

Development Office 530-839-9936
P.O. Box 80 Vina, California 96092



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Postage increases totaling 40 percent over the next five years will have the following impact on our mission and the people we serve: 1) Reduce funding for our school and adult tour programs, 2) Increase prospect mailing costs to secure new donors, and 3) Heighten the specter that the Abbey's development department, finally stabilized from staff turnover, will face closure.

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Sincerely,

Carlos Galvis
General Manager

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Sincerely,

Carissa Anderson
Donor Relations Officer

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Sincerely,

Michael L. Prym
Director of Development

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Sincerely,

Alexandra Hanes
Donor Services Associate

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